

black at the base, but with a broad tip of ferruginous or rich chestnut, lower rump and upper tail coverts the same. Quills black; a broad white band, formed by the whole of the median coverts, and the basal portions of the greater coverts, together with the outer edges of the last 3 or 4 secondaries (tertiaries of some writers), traverses the wing longitudinally. Tail black. Beneath, there is a white spot in the middle of the throat, in contact with the rich ferruginous tint of the breast, abdomen and lower tail coverts, which are the same colour as the rump; axillaries white, under wing coverts black and white mixed, inner margins of quills dusky grey. Wing, 3·5; tail, 2·95; tarsus, 0·93; culmen, 0·62; bill from front, 0·4.

*Female*. Olive brown above, forehead, lores and sides of head paler and more rufous; rump, upper tail coverts and basal portion of all the tail feathers, except the middle pair, ferruginous; central rectrices and terminal portion of all the others black, rather browner than in the male however; quills brownish black with paler brown edges, and a white bar over the wing as in the male. Chin, throat, breast, sides of abdomen and flanks rufescent brown with an olive tinge; a white spot, as in the male, in the centre of the throat; middle of the abdomen paler, lower tail coverts pale rufous. Wing 3·2, tail 2·8.

Of course I have no means of ascertaining certainly that the female is correctly identified, as the birds were obtained by Mr. Mandelli's collectors, but the white breast-spot leaves very little doubt on this head. As regards the locality, the only information Mr. Mandelli can give me is that these birds were obtained in Tibet in the month of November 1875.

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## II.—*Aberrant Dentition of Felis Tigris*.—By R. LYDEKKER, B. A.

(Read 6th February, 1878.)

(With Plate II.)

In the accompanying plate (No. II), there is represented the right ramus of a mandible of an individual of *Felis tigris* which was killed in British Burma; this jaw is remarkable in that it carries an additional premolar. The normal number of lower molar teeth in the genus *Felis* is three, namely, two premolars, which are respectively the penultimate and ultimate of that series, and one true molar, which is the first of the latter series, and which is often known as the "carnassial tooth."

In the figured specimen, there is between the canine tooth and the penultimate premolar, a small and simple tooth, which is the ante-penultimate

tooth of the premolar series, and which, as we have seen, does not occur in the normal dentition of the genus *Felis*; on the left side of the figured jaw this additional premolar is absent.

The interest that attaches to the presence of this additional premolar in our specimen, is that in an extinct genus of *Felidæ*, the normal number of the lower premolars was three in place of two, as in *Felis*. This extinct genus was named by M. Gervais *Pseudælorus*,\* and the one species (*P. quadridentatus*) on which it was determined, was obtained from the miocene formation of Sansan in France; the species was previously named by De Blainville in his "Osteographie," *Felis quadridentatus* and *F. tetraodon*. Subsequently Professor Leidy† described a second species of the genus, under the name of *P. intrepidus*, from the Pliocene of Nebraska. Still later, I myself‡ described the lower jaw of a third species, *P. sivalensis*, from the Siwaliks of this country.

It is well known that the small number of the molar series which exists in the living *Felidæ* is a highly specialized character, which is not found in the oldest carnivora, nor in many of those which are still living. The existence of an additional lower premolar in the Miocene and Pliocene genus *Pseudælorus* shows that that genus is less specialized than *Felis*, and indicates that the former was probably the line through which the latter was described from some primitive carnivore in which the whole four of the typical premolar series were developed. The occasional occurrence of the ante-penultimate lower premolar in *Felis* must be regarded as an instance of "reversion" towards the genus *Pseudælorus*.

\* "Zoologie et Paléontologie Françaises", Vol. I, p. 127.

† "Extinct Mammalia of Dakota and Nebraska," p. 52.

‡ "Records of Geological Survey of India," Vol. X., p. 83.

